

NOVEMBER 19, 1974

POOL REPORT

ARRIVAL, VISIT AND DEPARTURE AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE

The President arrived on schedule with the Emperor in the Emperor's car. A third person in the car was identified as the Master of Ceremonies of the Imperial Household.

The entrance to the Imperial Palace was through a foyer room, a vast room with black marble floors and mustard-colored carpet sparsely furnished with wall-wide picture windows looking on to gardens on two sides.

At one end of the room was a red teakwood staircase rising to a balcony that had a mural of a seascape.

The President and the Emperor, followed by the official parties all in striped trousers and frock-tailed morning coats, walked up the staircase and headed toward the palace family quarters. At this point, we lost sight of them.

On arriving, the Emperor emerged first from the car and the President followed him into the entrance. The President kept his hands folded in front of him and at one point appeared to wipe one hand on his hip. His striped trousers were a little short, rising above the ankle when he walked, and exposing at least an inch of black silk stocking.

He was followed by Kissinger, Hartmann, Rumsfeld, Nessen, Scowcroft, Catto and Kennerly, all in morning regalia with wing collars. We waited 35 minutes while the meeting was going on upstairs.

Kissinger and the others in the official party came out to the drive a good 10 minutes before the President. Kissinger said the meeting went "very well."

Then Nessen came down and told us that each of the official party was individually introduced to the Emperor. He said that Ford had a private audience with the Emperor and that following that, each member of the official party was introduced to the Emperor. The Empress at this point was not present.

From one of the photographers we learned that the Emperor and the President first viewed the gifts that were exchanged and then went to another room where the two of them were positioned with the Empress, wearing a pearl-colored kimono -- Ford in the center -- for a picture.

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The private meeting apparently took place following this and then the official party was introduced.

Nessen said there would be a briefing at 3:30 in the press center today. He was unsure of who the briefer will be, but holds out Kissinger as a possibility. He said it would be substantive on the first day of talks.

He also explained how the official party walked down a corridor with the garden visible on either side before reaching the Take-No-Ma Room.

The President and Emperor finally arrived. It was explained the Emperor had been pointing out some of the art work to Ford as they walked through the parlors. Ford and the Emperor shook hands at the entrance of the Imperial Palace as the President was leaving. The Emperor said, "I look forward to seeing you again tonight."

Ford said, "Thank you very kindly for your hospitality. It is a great privilege and honor to have met the Emperor."

The Emperor bowed from the waist slightly several times and said, "I hope you have a good rest."

Ford said, "Thank you very much," and walked to the car, and there were several bows before the President finally entered the car. The President walked slowly to his car and the Emperor stood at the door with his heels together very straight and waited until the President's limousine pulled away.

En route back to the hotel, we were told that the President gave the Emperor a triangular-shaped Stueben described as a figurine statue, and a colored autographed picture of himself. Mike Crowe gave us the information and said he did not know specifically how it was autographed.

In return the Emperor presented the President with two framed colored pictures of himself and the Empress,

Margaret Mayer
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